

Q Were you summoned to De Rassey's Lane on Saturday morning, Sept. 16th? A I did.

Q At that time you were the chief peace officer of the County? A I was the Sheriff of the county.

Q Well, that is the chief peace officer who did you go with?

A George D. Totten, County detective of the Prosecutor's Office, Dr. William H. Long and Joseph Novatto.

Q And what did you see when you got there?

A I ~~saw~~ saw a police officer, several people and the bodies of Dr. Hall and Mrs. Mills.

Q What was the condition of the bodies? A Well, they looked as if some mortification had set in around the face, they were exposed.

Q How about the clothes?

A They were in excellent condition.

Q And did you see anything about the woman's throat, notice anything about the woman's throat?

A I did.

Q What did you notice? A A deep gash in the right side of the throat.

Q And when you arrived with Mr. Totten, the surroundings had not been disturbed at all, had they. The people lying there, and the only people there were yourself



and Mr. Totten and the people who had discovered the bodies, police officers, we will say?

A Police officers and several others.

Q Now, did you as chief police officer of the county take any steps to rope this off, and see if there was any automobile tracks or any shoe tracks or physical evidence of any kind, that they were preserved?

A I didnot.

Q Did you observe any automobile tracks yourself?

A I didnot.

Q Did you look for any? A I did not.

Q Did you look for any evidences of any handkerchielf, marks, bullets, shells or anything of that kind?

A Yes sir.

Q What did you look for?

A I found between them, between Dr. Hall and Mrs. Mill's bodies, near the knee, right Knee of Dr. Hall, in a radius possibley of 12 or 14 inches, some cards, letters an automobile license, and a handkerchief was handed to me later.

Q What kind of a handkerchief was it?

A It looked to me to be a gentleman's handkerchief, medium size.

Q Any mark on it, any initial? A I did not notice any.



Q And what did you do with the handkerchief, sheriff?

A I placed it with the letters ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ and the cards in a box.

Q Who did you give it to? A George D. Totten, the County Detective.

Q The newspaper men had been there before you, hadn't they

A I didn't know.

Q You don't know that? A No sir, I don't.

Q Were you there when the bodies were identified?

A Well, Mr. Florance stated to me that, "Sheriff, this is a sad occurrence, this is Dr. Hall, the Rector of St. John's Episcopal Church of New Brunswick." or words to that effect.

Q When was it you saw Mr. Florance? A It was some time after we arrived there.

Q Did he come there? A He did.

Q Was anybody with him? A I didn't notice anyone with him.

Q And he was the one told you this was a sad occurrence, and this was the Rev. Dr. Hall, did he say who the woman was? A No sir.

Q That is Senator Florance? A That is Senator Florance of Middlesex County. I happened to know him while I was in office.



- 1 Q He is the first person you saw on the ground who identified the bodies? A. Yes, sir.
- Q And that is when you went there with Mr. Totten?
- A Yes, sir.
- Q You say he did not identify Mrs. Mills?
- A I didn't hear him refer to Mrs. Mills.
- Q Well, did he in your presence, lift up her hat and say, "That is her, I am satisfied that is her."
- A Mr. Florence was standing hear them, near to Mr. Hall, about possibly five feet as I remember. A man passed in front of us, stepping rather quickly, went over to the body of Mrs. Mills, lifted up her hat, and stated, as near as I can recollect, "That is her; I am satisfied that is her."
- Q Now, sheriff, do you remember what time it was when you got there, I mean, can you figure it definitely?
- A I can't; I cannot; no.
- Q But you arrived with Mr. Totten, didn't you?
- A I did.
- Q And how long were you there all together?
- A Well, as near as I can recollect, I won't be positive, it might have been two hours, or possibly over.
- Q Were you there when the bodies were taken away?
- A I was.
- Q Who took them away?



105.2042 p5

2

A Mr. Sutphen, the undertaker of Somerville, and Joseph DeMond, a resident of Somerville.

Q The investigation, as I take it, you left to the Prosecutor's office? A. Beg pardon?

Q The investigation, as I take it, you left to the prosecutor's office. A. I did. I stated to Mr. Totten that I was perfectly willing to cooperate in any way possible.

Q You would have given any help they asked you to?

A Absolutely, I always have and I have never shirked my duty.

Q How long have you been sheriff?

A I have been sheriff about two years and eleven months. My term would have expired about two months later, November 11th.

Q While you were there did you see Mr. Totten take any precautions to rope this place off?

A I did not.

Q As a matter of fact, don't you know immediately after the bodies were found and removed, crowds of people went there and cut down the crab apple tree and took it away as souvenirs. A. That I don't know.

Q Did you wrap up the letters you found and the cartridge and the cards in the handkerchief you found at the body?

A I wrapped the letters and the cards ~~in~~ with the handkerchief. I put a shell in my vest pocket, which I



105.2042 p6

3

found near the body of Dr. Hall.

Q Where did you find this shell?

A It was, I think between his head and possibly the head of Mrs. Mills.

Q Was there a quantity of blood stained earth around where they were? A. Yes, sir.

Q At the heads? A. Yes, sir.

Q Was his collar stained with blood?

A I didn't notice any stains on the collar.

Q Where did you notice the blood around them?

A Under Dr. Hall's head, heavily matted in the grass.

Q Under his head? A. Under his head.

Q Did you notice any signs as if there had been a struggle, was the grass down, or dug up, indicating there had been any struggle there? A. No, sir; I notice the grass in certain places had been trodden down presumably by those there prior to our getting there, and those that came there.

CROSS EXAMINATION BY MR. PFEIFFER:

Q So that, Sheriff, there was no indication from the condition of the ground that there had been a struggle in this immediate spot upon the night before, so far as you could tell from the condition of the ground?

A It would seem that there was not.